

Alternatives to outdoor burning

Composting, chipping, and recycling are viable alternatives to outdoor burning that create a resource instead of air pollution and a solid waste problem.

Composting is an easy and inexpensive way to turn yard and gardening refuse into a usable and valuable product. Compost turns organic matter, like leaves, weeds, and wood chips, into a rich soil conditioner.

Chipping brush, pruning, land-clearing debris and wood waste makes an excellent mulch or substitute for decorative bark. Chips can protect soil and help keep weeds at bay. They can also be used to line garden paths and trails or provide a softer landing under playground equipment.

Recycling/reuse. Many options are available in our area for wood and building scraps, pallets, cardboard and other paper products.

Why worry about outdoor burning?

Smoke from outdoor burning is harmful to human health. The pollution that is generated from outdoor burning poses a threat to residents throughout the area. Smoke from outdoor burning includes fine particulate matter that is especially harmful to babies and children whose developing lungs are small and vulnerable. Smoke also harms the elderly and those who suffer from heart disease, asthma, emphysema, or other respiratory diseases.

Smoke resulting from outdoor burning is also made up of a complex mixture of compounds. Many are toxic and are known to cause cancer.

Pollution from outdoor burning is also a threat to our environment. Outdoor burning has already been phased out in many urban areas of our state.

For a list of alternatives to burning in our area please contact the Chittenden County Solid Waste District at 872-8111 or on the web at www.cswd.net

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO OBTAIN A BURN PERMIT CONTACT:

Jericho Town Administrator's Office
67 VT Rt. 15
Jericho, VT 05645
(802) 899-9970 ext. 3 (info & permits)
Monday – Thursday 8:00 am – 3:30 pm
Friday 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

Town Fire Warden
David Tillotson
Saturday & Sunday
8:00 am to 10:00 am
899-3897

FOR STATE BURNING REGULATIONS CONTACT:

State of Vermont
Air Pollution Control Division
103 South Main Street
Building 3 South
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-0402
Tel.: (802) 241-3840 or in-state toll free: (888) 520-4879
FAX: (802) 241-2590

TO REPORT A FIRE CALL 911

GUIDELINES FOR OUTDOOR BURNING IN JERICO

Outdoor burning in Jericho is subject to the requirements outlined in this brochure.



TOWN OF JERICO
67 VT Rt. 15
Jericho, VT 05465

GENERAL RULES:

- No refuse can be burned through open burning or incineration.
- No structure, standing or not, may be intentionally burned.
- No combustible liquids can be used to ignite an open burn.
- No permissible burn shall be allowed to smolder for an extended period of time.
- All fires shall be fully extinguished when not attended to.
- All individuals conducting a permissible burn shall have means available to keep the fire under control or to extinguish the fire immediately.
- An authorized individual may order any fire to be extinguished. If the order to extinguish is not followed, an authorized individual may call the fire department to extinguish the fire. Any cost associated with the fire department extinguishing the fire is the responsibility of the permit holder.
- An authorized individual may inspect material to be burned and deny issuance of a permit as a result of the inspection.

BURNING NOT REQUIRING A PERMIT:

- Campfires or bonfires less than thirty (30) inches in diameter
- Barbeque pits less than thirty (30) inches in diameter
- Burning of fuels for cooking purposes
- Recreational burning of natural wood in chimineas or similar open containers
- The open burning of natural wood or non-woody vegetation when the ground surrounding the area where the burn is taking place is covered in snow.

BURNING REQUIRING A PERMIT:

- When the ground surrounding the area where the burn is to take place is not covered in snow, the following require a burn permit:
 - Burning of natural wood or non-woody vegetation
 - Campfires and Bonfires greater than 30 inches in diameter

DEFINITIONS:

- “Natural wood” means trees, including logs, boles, or slabs, trunks, branches, limbs and stumps lumber including timber, logs or slabs, especially when dressed for use. This definition shall also include pallets which are used for the shipment of various materials so long as such pallets are not chemically treated with any preservative, paint, or oil. This definition shall not extend to other wood products such as sawdust, plywood, particle board and pressboard.
- Non-woody vegetation” means leaves, grass, yard trimmings, and other organic materials.
- “Open burning” means any burning in the open or in an open container, specifically excluding burning that takes place in dwelling heating systems, cooking systems, candles or lamps or welding equipment.
- “Refuse” means all solid or liquid wastes, including but not limited to: animal and vegetable wastes resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking and consumption of food; street cleanings; dead animals; abandoned automobiles; solid market and industrial wastes; paper; cardboard; tin cans; plastics; glass; bedding; crockery; plywood composite materials; pressure-treated materials; and other building materials.
- “Structure” means any assembly of materials for display, use or occupancy, including, but not limited to, buildings, mobile homes, shipping and storage containers, carports, sheds, garages, and porches.

FIRE RISK MANAGEMENT

Burning should only be carried out under ideal conditions and with the necessary precautions in place to safely and effectively control the fire, prevent its escape, and prevent impacts on others and surrounding properties.

Fires that go out of control may damage forest resources, buildings, equipment, crops, and other valuable property.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Wind Speed and Direction – are two of the most important factors to consider when starting a fire. When existing or forecasted windspeeds are greater than 5mph, consideration should be given to not starting a fire. Winds are typically lightest near dawn and strongest in the afternoon.

Time of Day – The best time for burning is usually in the early to mid morning or late afternoon. If burning in the late afternoon is considered, the burn should be completed at least two hours before sunset.

Smoke Management – Smoke can cause public health risks and create a hazard by impairing visibility on public roads. Consider what is present downwind of your burn area. If you are close to residences, farms roads or other vulnerable areas, take care to ensure that smoke from the fires does not interfere or present harm to those affected downwind.

Where smoke is a concern, fires should not be lit at night or early evening. Nighttime inversions may occur with warmer air aloft settling over cooler air at the surface. In these conditions smoke will pool in low-lying areas and generally be trapped close to the surface.